

News Release

Edgar Allan Poe the Focus of Essay by U of M, Crookston Associate Professor Rachel McCoppin Published Recently in a Book Examining Poe and his Work

By Itollefs on Thursday, October 25, 2012 Often the celebration of Halloween conjures up tales of suspense and for many the spooky stories of the famous author Edgar Allan Poe. A book published recently on Poe includes an essay by Associate Professor Rachel McCoppin, at right, who teaches in the Liberal Arts and Education Department at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. The book entitled Adapting Poe: Re-Imaginations in Popular Culture published by Palgrave Macmillan includes the essay "Horrific Obsessions: Poe's Legacy of the Unreliable Narrator" authored by McCoppin. The book, edited by Dennis R. Perry and Carl H. Sederholm, is a collection of essays examining a wide range of genres and media all centered on Poe and his works. The compilation looks closely at Poe's influence on popular culture and his relevance today. "Poe is known for his psychological horror; his narrators terrify readers because their afflictions come from within their own minds," McCoppin says. "Poe narrators are famous for repressing their true selves, until the horrific culmination of the story shows the narrator as a slave of his own demanding psyche, usually forcing him to commit murder.

"My article focuses on Poe's narrators in some of his most famous stories, like "The Tell-Tale Heart" and "The Black Cat" and connects them to leading characters in the popular films, Alfred Hitchcock's Vertigo and M. Night Shyamalan's Sixth Sense, to show how failing to know oneself may lead, given the right circumstances, to terror," she continues. McCoppin earned her doctorate from the University in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pa., her master or arts from Northern Michigan University, Marquette, Mich., and her bachelor of arts from the University of Michigan, Flint, in English. Her research interests include American transcendentalism, modernism, existentialism, and the pedagogy of literature and ethics. She has been teaching in the area of literature, oral interpretation, and communication ethics at the U of M, Crookston since 2003. Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 26 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and 39 concentrations on campus--as well as 10 degrees online--in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of 1,800 undergraduates from 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.



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